



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr. J. Edwards

31st March, 2008

Dear Dr. Edwards,

Thank you for your letter, enclosing a copy of representations you have made to Mr. Rothnie of the Forestry Commission.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Hansard report of the debate in Parliament on 19th March. Since then I have had a meeting with Mr. Seddon, the Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest, and he has confirmed that the Forestry Commission will:

- " i.) Revisit consideration of alternative sites and undertake some initial discussion with Forestry Commission landlords over leased forest areas.
- ii.) Consider a partnership approach to delivery of a concert site.
- iii.) Invite some local representatives to another Forestry Commission concert venue this summer to witness the management and planning standards.
- iv.) Continue to engage with local representatives, especially the parish council, to consider the way ahead."

You will note from the above that there now seems to be some relaxation of the Forestry Commission's hitherto intransigent approach towards this issue.

I hope to be able to meet Lord Clark to discuss matters further within the next few weeks.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mr. Chope', with a small flourish at the end.

CHRISTOPHER CHOPE

(Dictated by Mr Chope and signed in his absence by
his Research Assistant to avoid delay)